

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 03706 222125Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 OPR-02 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00  
NSCE-00 USSS-00 SYE-00 /051 W  
-----023145 222148Z /73

P 222104Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0716

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 3706

STATE FOR SY AND ARA

PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: TERRORIST THREATS TO FOREIGN AMBASSADORS

REF: (A) GUATEMALA 3632 (NOTAL, (B) GUATEMALA 3645 (NOTAL),  
(C) GUATEMALA 3667 (NOTAL)

1. ON JUNE 12 THE EMBASSY'S SECURITY WATCH COMMITTEE (SWC) MET TO DISCUSS INFORMATION RECEIVED THAT TERRORIST ACTIVITY WAS LIKELY TO INCREASE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE WITH GOG OFFICIALS AS PRIMARY TARGETS AND THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AS SECONADARY TARGETS. MISSION PERSONNEL ADVISED TO EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION. THE GUARD FORCE AT ENTRANCE TO CHANCERY WAS INCREASED FROM 1 TO 2.

2. ON JUNE 16 THE SWC MET AGAIN TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SECURITY THREAT AGAINST DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND THE TERRORIST ATTACK OF JUNE 14 ON A MILITARY TRUCK WHICH KILLED 17 MILITARY PERSONNEL. AGAIN MISSION PERSONNEL URGED TO EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GUATEM 03706 222125Z

3. ON JUNE 19 THE EMBASSY RECEIVED WORD THAT THE GUERRILLA ARMY OF THE POOR (EGP) EITHER ACTING ALONE OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER EXTREMIST GROUPS WAS PLANNING A SERIES OF TERRORIST ACTS TO INCLUDE THE ASSASSINATION OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, OR IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE, A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN MISSION. AMB. BOSTER WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON WAS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OF THE THREAT AND HIS SECURITY DETAIL WAS INCREASED ACCORDINGLY.

4. ON JUNE 20 ANOTHER SWC MEETING WAS HELD TO DISCUSS THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE GENERAL THREAT TO AMERICAN MISSION PERSONNEL AS WELL AS THE SPECIFIC THREAT AGAINST THE AMBASSADOR. AGAIN AMERICAN PERSONNEL WERE CAUTIONED AND ADVISED TO UTILIZE THE EMBASSY'S

HOME TO OFFICE TRANSPORTATION. ADDITIONALLY THE AMBASSADOR HAS DECIDED TO LIMIT HIS SOCIAL SCHEDULE.

5. THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN: THE AMBASSADOR'S PROTECTIVE DETAIL HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM 4 TO 7 AGENTS. THE DETAIL NOW UTILIZES A LEAD CAR (THERETOFOR ONLY A FOLLOW CAR WAS USED). 7 AGENTS ARE ON DUTY 24 HOURS PER DAY TO PROVIDE SECURITY ESCLRT AS WELL AS RESIDENTIAL PROTECTION. A TECHNICAL SECURITY OFFICER, WHO ARRIVED YESTERDAY WAS REQUESTED TO REPAIR AN ALARM SYSTEM AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND TO INSTALL OTHER ALARMS AS NECESSARY. ALSO 10 ADDITIONAL

RADIOS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR USE BY AMBASSADOR/EMBASSY PROTECTIVE DETAILS.

6. IN LIGHT OF THE GENERAL THREAT TO ALL DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN GUATEMALA THE GOG YESTERDAY OFFERED PROTECTIVE DETAILS TO ALL CHIEFS OF MISSION. BECAUSE OF OUR OWN PROTECTIVE DETAIL FOR THE AMBASSADOR, THE EMBASSY DECLINED BUT REQUESTED 2 ADDITIONAL POLICEMENT FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 GUATEM 03706 222125Z

7. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE EMBASSY'S SECURITY RESOURCES ARE STRAINED BUT SUFFICIENT. ANY INCREASE TO THE GENERAL THREAT DIRECTED TOWARD MISSION PERSONNEL OR THE SPECIFIC THREAT TO THE AMBASSADOR WOULD REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR MORE LOCAL AGENTS, AND/OR ADDITIONAL

SECURITY EQUIPMENT AND/OR POSSIBLY A SY PROTECTIVE DETAIL.

8. BECAUSE OF VARIETY AND VERACITY OF SOURCES FROM WHICH INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED, AND THE PROBABLE INVOLVEMENT OF THE EGP, A GROUP WITH A PROVEN CAPABILITY FOR CARRYING OUT SUCH TERRORIST ACTS, THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THE EXISTING THREAT AS VERY REAL AND SERIOUS.

9. ANY CHANGE IN THE EMBASSY EVALUATION OF THE THREAT OR NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

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